

Government of India have set up a Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi whose terms of reference, *inter alia*, include:

"To examine the measures taken so far to reduce the prices of drugs for the consumer and to recommend such further measures as may be necessary to rationalise the prices of basic drugs and formulations".

The Committee is expected to submit its report in April, 1975.

Cancellation of Trains in Western Railway

187 SHRI N. K. SANGHI. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 100 trains—both goods and passengers—were cancelled in the Western Railways because of the acute shortage of coal;

(b) whether similar cancellations have taken place in other Railways also during the last six months, and

(c) if so, the present position of coal supply to the different Railways as against their scheduled demand and steps taken to meet the shortage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH). (a) Yes The curtailment was mainly confined to passenger services.

(b) Yes.

(c) The production and offer of steam coal has picked up lately and the supply of coal for Railways has consequently improved since December, 1974. The present level of supplies have picked up to meet the scheduled demand of coal for the Railways. Anticipating that the improvement will continue, the required passenger trains are now being progressively restored.

Colouring of Kerosene to Prevent Adulteration

188, SHRI N. K. SANGHI): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had mooted a proposal to dye kerosene so as to prevent adulteration of petrol with kerosene; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be implemented and the reasons for delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme could not be taken up so far due to non-availability of a suitable dye for the purpose from indigenous sources. Some indigenous manufacturers of dyes were however trying to develop a suitable dye for this purpose and have now succeeded. Indian Oil Corporation, Cochin Refineries Ltd, and Assam Oil Company have been asked to prepare feasibility reports on the facilities required for Gauhati, Barauni, Cochin and Digboi Refineries. These are likely to be completed soon when further action will be taken to start colouring of kerosene oil on an experimental basis in some areas.

Stoppage of Conversion Work on Ernakulam-Trivandrum Line Due to Paucity of Funds

189 SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on the conversion of Ernakulam-Trivandrum railway line into Broad Gauge has practically come to a halt due to the lack of enough funds; and

(b) if so, what extent the work has been affected due to non-availability of funds and the reasons there-

for together with the steps taken by Government to complete the work in scheduled time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH). (a) No.

(b) There has been some reduction in the allotment of funds in the current financial year due to curtailment in the Plan outlay for the Railways. However, all possible steps are being taken to ensure that the progress of the work is maintained by reappropriation of funds from other works, to the extent possible.

Funds Allotted for conversion of Ernakulam-Trivandrum Line into Broad Gauge

190. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allotted in the Railway budget for 1974-75 for the conversion works of the Ernakulam-Trivandrum Railway line into a broad gauge line;

(b) the total amount spent so far in this year and how does it compare with the total amount sanctioned by Government for this purpose during this period; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the Railway Users Association in Kerala has accused Government of diverting funds allotted for this project to other projects in other States and if so, the facts thereof and if not, the reasons for not spending the whole amount allotted in the budget?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The total amount allotted for this work in the railway budget for 74-75 is Rs. 361 lakhs.

(b) The total amount spent in 1974-75 upto the end of January, 1975 is Rs. 211 lakhs. As the amount has been sanctioned for the whole year it is not

possible to compare the expenditure upto January, 1975 with the allotment.

(c) There has been no diversion of funds as alleged. Due to cut in the funds allotted to the Railways in 1974-75, it is now proposed to reduce the funds allotted for this work to Rs. 308.50 lakhs which is anticipated to be fully spent.

Allocation for Mangalore-Bombay Railway Line during Fifth Five Year Plan

191. **SHRI P. R. SHENOY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has approved the proposed Mangalore-Bombay Railway line; and

(b) if so, what is the amount allotted for laying the line during the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). The Final Location Survey between Apta and Dasgaon has been completed and the reports are under examination. Final Location Survey between Dasgaon and Ratnagiri including spot checks between Ratnagiri and Mangalore is in progress. The proposal for construction of line from Apta to Mangalore will be considered further after the surveys are completed, and reports examined. The Planning Commission will be approached for approving the construction of this line in case it is decided to take up this work after examination of the survey reports.